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"Few Arctic explorers have failed to note the important part the lamp plays in the lives of the Eskimo, whose entire domestic life seems to be directed toward this household appliance. Indeed it may be said that their very existence depends on the possession of the lamp, because it has made possible their occupancy of an otherwise uninhabitable region. Although in accessible parts the primus stove is now being used by the Eskimo for heating and cooking, the native lamp is always held in reserve for emergencies.

Eskimo lamps are made of stone, earthenware, bone, and sometimes of wood, depending largely on the material at hand. They are made in a variety of forms, but certain types seem to prevail throughout the northern edge of the American continent. Steatite is the favorite material for the manufacture of lamps and cooking vessels, because it is easily carved, it retains heat, and may be repaired when broken. Seal-oil and blubber are preferred for burning in the lamps, but caribou and other animal fats are sometimes used.

There are two kinds of lamps in use among the Eskimo--the small traveler's lamp, and the large house lamp that belongs to the women. Sometimes a very small lamp is used only for lighting purposes in the house. When an Eskimo family is on the [27] move the large lamps are usually well wrapped in a bundle of skins and carried by the women on their backs in order to prevent breakage by the bumping of the sled over the rough ice, should they be packed thereon with other belongings.

Among the ethnological specimens recently acquired [AW: by the Museum of the

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"Two fine cooking vessels of steatite are also represented in this collection, the larger measuring 37 1/2 inches long, 6 3/4 inches wide, and 5 inches deep--an unusual size for Coronation gulf, although vessels have been reported from this region as large as 40 inches in length. The smaller vessel is 26 1/2 inches long; 7 inches deep, and 9 1/2 inches wide in the center, tapering to 8 inches at each end. This type of vessel is rare among the Eskimo of Coronation gulf. Both vessels are perforated at the corners for suspension, and in use are swung on rods that may be shifted over or away from the flame."